

39117

Department of State

TELEGRAM

CABLE SECRETARIAT DISSEM BY 15

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ADDP, D/C, C/AF, C/CA

SECRET

HCG524

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ACTION PM-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-20 L-02 AF-05 DODE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 H-01  
RSR-01 RSC-01 /034 W

099846

P R 281200Z MAR 70  
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2727  
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA  
CINCSTRIKE

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 01207

LIMDIS

PM RE PINCUS/PAUL

SUBJECT PINCUS/PAUL VISIT ASMARA

1. ASMARA 177 GIVING SUMMARY KAGNEW AND CONGEN SESSIONS  
BEING REPEATED SEPARATELY AS ADDIS 1206.

2. WOULD EMPHASIZE SIGNIFICANCE LONG SERIES QUESTIONS POSED BY  
PINCUS/PAUL DURING BOTH SESSIONS RE MAKE-UP OF ELF,  
DIRECTION ELF STRENGTH TRENDS, HISTORICAL EVOLUTION ELF  
AND ERITREAN NATIONALISM, EXTENT TO WHICH ELF CAN MAKE  
WEIGHT FELT IN ERITREA. (VISIT COINCIDED WITH NATIONAL  
GEOGRAPHIC KIDNAPPING WHICH WAS FULLY DESCRIBED IN ADDIS  
TO PINCUS/PAUL, TO AVOID CHARGES OF ATTEMPTED CONCEALMENT  
WHEN THEY LEARNED OF STORY EITHER HERE OR IN US. FOCUSED IN  
PARTICULAR ON US POSTURE VIS-A-VIS ELF. THIS WAS  
CONSISTENTLY DESCRIBED IN BOTH ADDIS AND ASMARA  
BRIEFINGS AS ONE OF NON-INVOLVEMENT NOTING EXTRA CARE EXERCISED  
AVOID IDENTIFYING US MILITARY IN ANY  
WAY WITH IEG COUNTER-ELF OPERATIONS (OR COUNTER-  
DISSIDENT ACTIVITY IN BALE). THIS POSTURE CONTINUES BE  
ACCEPTED BY BOTH IEG AND AIC DESPITE DAMASCUS STATEMENTS.

3. PINCUS/PAUL  
ASKED WHAT ARMS USED AGAINST ELF. WERE

State Dept. declassification & release instructions on file

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INFORMED 2ND DIV. ARMED WITH M-1 RIFLES, COMMANDOS  
POLICE WITH ISRAELI MACHINE GUNS,  
M-1 CARBINES, POLICE  
USED MAINLY GERMAN VEHICLES.

4. INQUIRIES RE AIRCRAFT USE AGAINST ELF SUBJECT SEPTEL.  
NOTE HERE HOWEVER REPEATED QUESTION WHETHER US FURNISHING  
POL ANSWER: NO) OR OTHER CONSUMABLES (ANSWS: TRAINING  
AND WR AMMO ONLY) TO IEG FORCES.

5. BASIC PROBLEM APPEARS TO BE UNWILLINGNESS ACCEPT  
TRUTHFULNESS OF STATEMENTS BY AMBASSADOR, DCM, CONSUL  
GENERAL IN LIGHT STAFF DESIRE CONSTRUCT IMAGE US RELATIONS  
TO IEG IDENTICAL THOSE US AND VIETNAM, LAOS, THAILAND.  
HOPEFULLY STAFF WILL BE MORE INCLINED ACCEPT CREDIBILITY.  
DEPARTMENT WITNESSES.  
HALL

SECRET